

**GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
DEFENCE
LOK SABHA**

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:5674
ANSWERED ON:02.05.2002
RECRUITMENT POLICY
MOHAN RAWALE

Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

- (a) the present recruitment policy in armed forces;
- (b) whether Army is conducting examination either in Hindi or in English to the lower cadres posts like soldier;
- (c) if so, whether the Government propose to change a policy of recruitment;
- (d) if so, the details thereof;
- (e) whether the Government have received any representations from some States for a change in the policy;
- (f) if so, the details thereof; and
- (g) the action taken by the Government in this regard?

Answer

MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES)

(a) to (g): A Statement is attached.

STATEMENT REFERRED TO IN REPLY TO PARTS (a) TO (g) OF LOK SABHA UNSTARRED QUESTION NO. 5674
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Presently, the recruitment to the lower ranks of Navy and Air Force is being done on All India Merit basis through a system of applications. In Army, recruitment is carried out through Open Recruitment Rallies. In all the three wings of Armed Forces the examinations for recruitment of Lower Ranks are conducted bilingually i.e. either in Hindi or in English.

The present system is working well and the Government is not contemplating any change in the present policy in this regard.

A request to initiate appropriate policy change to conduct Army recruitment tests in regional languages was received from the Chief Minister of Andhra Pradesh. The request was examined and a reply thereto has already been sent stating that the Test papers for recruitment of Lower Ranks in the Army are set in English and Hindi and are of elementary standard which even an individual with average knowledge can pass. In addition the questions are explained to the candidates in the regional languages by employing teachers proficient in the local languages and the candidates are allowed additional time for this purpose. The language option for induction into Army is decided on the basis of the needs of day to day functioning and training requirements. Lack of knowledge of English and Hindi is thus likely to lead to a communication gap.